

## **REMARKS**

By this Amendment claims 1, 6 and 9 are amended, and claims 15 and 16 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6 and 9 are independent claims. No new matter is presented in this Amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 6-7 and 9-12 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 6 and 9 are rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 6 and 9 are allowable. Claims 10-12 depend from independent claim 9 and are likewise allowable at least for their dependence on claim 9, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,784,770 to Gimenez et al. ("Gimenez"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a test switch "associated with the switch mechanism and operable to turn on and off the power supply circuit of the power supply line when the operating handle is actuated to turn on and off the switch mechanism." Gimenez fails to disclose, teach or suggest this feature.

Gimenez only discloses, at column 9, lines 38 to column 10, line 31, a test switch 115 and a trip/reset mechanism 116 cooperating to allow the test switch 115 to actuate the operating mechanism of the circuit breaker 12. Especially, it is held at column 10, lines 26-31 that "The interconnection between the dielectric test switch 115 and the trip/reset mechanism 116 ensures that the circuit breaker 12 can not be closed to allow electrical current to flow to the protected circuit until the dielectric test cartridge 87 is returned to its contacts closed position."

In the invention, when the operating handle is actuated to turn on and off the switch mechanism, the test switch turns on and off the power supply circuit as well in association with the

switch mechanism.

Gimenez fails to disclose the circuit breaker 12 turning on and off the power supply circuit of the power supply line of a leakage-detection circuit as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is patentable over Gimenez.

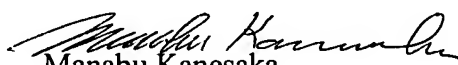
Accordingly, because Gimenez does not disclose, teach or suggest the features recited in claim 1, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is improper. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that independent claim 1 is patentable over Gimenez.

Claims 2-5, 7-8, and 13-14 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentable over Gimenez at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection over Gimenez is respectfully requested. New claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 1 and thus are also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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